

Almond Variety: Kester

Kester

'Kester' is a fully cross-compatible pollenizer for 'Nonpareil' and other California varieties. This cultivar yields 4-17% lower than 'Nonpareil'. 'Kester' has a lower than average number of twin, doubled, and shriveled kernels, and is very well sealed. Evaluators note that the 'Kester' seedcoat is similar to that of the variety 'Carmel'.



Kester



Nonpareil

Pomological Traits

Growth Habit:	Upright
Tree Vigor:	Vigorous
Flowering Time:	Nonpareil +5 days
S Compatibility Genotype:	Not self compatible
Pollination:	Cross compatible with Nonpareil and many other California varieties
Light Interception:	1% less than Nonpareil
Length of Flowering:	Average
Harvest Season:	Hull split between 1 and 4 days after Nonpareil

Commercial Traits

Nut Shape:	Similar to Nonpareil
Kernel Size:	Medium-sized
Kernel Shape:	Ovate
Crackout Percentage:	56%
Shell Sealing:	Well sealed, more than 90%
Double Kernels:	Low- less than 3%
Twin Kernels:	Low - less than 5%
Kernel Appearance:	Medium color with deep wrinkles

Overall Assessment

'Kester' is a pollenizer for 'Nonpareil' and many other California varieties. It yields comparably to 'Nonpareil', with yields 4-17% lower than Nonpareil in University of California regional variety trials, depending upon orchard location and management. 'Kester' is a very well-sealed variety, with correspondingly low NOW damage. Trees are upright to spreading and moderately vigorous, being about 90% of Nonpareil size at maturity. Evaluators note that 'Kester' is timed well to be a pollenizer for 'Butte'.

5/26/2021

Key Points

- ▶ Fully cross-compatible with 'Nonpareil' and other California cultivars
- ▶ Very well sealed
- ▶ Good bloom overlap with Butte

Kester Development

